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Murder Wears an Urbane Mask Where and When In Thriller, 'Laura,' at Palace

Murder among the urbane, the folk wno are supposed to anesthetize their emotions with sophistication and alcohol, is almost invariably more popular than any other kind. That is almost certain to prove true in the case of "Laura," which opened today at Loew's Palace, with Gene and 9:55 p.m. Stage shows: 12:55, the case of "Laura," which opened today at Loew's Palace, with Gene Tierney, Dana Andrews, Clifton Webb, Judith Anderson and some other slick performers more commonly associated with Chanel 5 than with bloodshed. They all are fascinating—by suave in this 20th Century-Fox version of Vera Caspary's whodunit, with Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews; which was praised as quite a literate thing when it appeared in novel the novel by Vera Caspary. At the Palace, with Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews and Palace of the novel by Vera Caspary. At the Palace, with Gene Tierney and Dana Andrews and Palace of the novel by Vera Caspary. At the Palace of the novel by Vera Caspary of

are making every one extremely witty, that the merest commonplace Fred Callahan of dialogue is the sort of thing that Corey columnists covering the smart set newspaper readers tomorrow afternoon. It is hardly true, except in the case of Clifton Webb, an actor who appears to have started in babyhood to master the art of the assignment as the fading charmer of the assignment as the fading charmer of the script.

Palace — Latra : 11 a.m., 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35 and 9:45 p.m.

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wise young detective lieutenant, and thing at all times. the ne'er-do-well son of a once Murder, as we say, has not looked

prominent Kentucky family. It is a so attractive in several seasons. slick quadrangle they make, to which another is periodically added For the Duration in the form of a wealthy middle-aged woman whose emotions are distinctly erratic.

unattractively murdered by getting a double load of buckshot in her beautiful face. Not since an ambitious reporter sought to whip up exting the companies, operating outdoors, could stop work and prevent camcitement by recording, "The nude era sound tracks from being ruined. body of a well-dressed man was found floating today in the East last of them for military service. River," has a murder been better dressed than this one.

Its columnist (Webb) is to be so sartorially perfect that the picture dares to introduce him sitting in his bathtub turning out his next day's earth-shaking revelations about the private lives and thoughts of his wide circle of acquaintances. Its heroine (Miss Tierney) is a girl who looks as if she were the solitary client of Valentina, and even the hardboiled detective (Andrews) is a man to whom the haughtiest tailor could point with pride.

Without giving away anything of Miss Caspary's mystery, it may be said that the murderer clearly is one of the exclusive group. It is the de-tective's job, of course, to track them all down, a pursuit which leads him to some of the loveliest lairs along Park avenue. Little old Ming vases, trinkets from the tombs of the Egyptian kings, clocks and other items which would make a museum arrogant are scattered among the lives of the group as a tired old oak scatters its leaves in October.

is difficult to select among so many | HANS KINDLER, Conductor | He is the epitomization of the insufferable columnist, the man who trades insult and vilification for favors and courtesies, but he still man-ages his engaging moments in his dealings with the heroine and the detective. Palpably, Mr. Webb is one of the slickest performers the movies have laid their hands on in seasons. a thing that Broadway would have been glad to tell the movies year.

Miss Tierney, whose stately loveliness has been her chief asset in so many earlier pictures, is given an opportunity to register dramatically in "Laura" and manages it quite

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There is only one flaw, and that not a maiming one, in "Laura." Waldo Lydecker Shelby Carpenter tion of the script writers that they Bessie Clary McAvity McAvity would send winging to 6,000,000 competently within the limits of the

babyhood to master the art of the assignment as the fading charmer of icy insult. The others too often "Laura," a woman who competes seem merely to admire the art in- with the beautiful younger members stead of having mastered it. As we of her sex by flashing a checkbook say, however, the air of excitement under the nose of the handsomest that pervades the atmosphere of handy male. It is not a very testing "Laura" will take care of such a role for her, obviously, but it is to the advantage of the picture that she was willing to play it.

The gloss which becomes gory as Andrews is not normally surround"Laura" unfolds is to be found ed by such lustrous players, but he chiefly in its Park avenue settings brings off his detective part with and the people who occupy them. just the touch that Director Otto The latter are primarily an arrogant Preminger wanted. So does Vincent columnist, a brilliant young adver- Price as the weakling whose fatal tising woman, a laconic and very fascination for women is a plausible

HOLLYWOOD

Into the somewhat jaded lives of these brittle people comes an attractive corpse, who has been most tractive corpse. AMUSEMENTS.



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James Flavin
Clyde Fillmore
Ralph Dunn
Grant Mitchell
Kathleen Howard
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